(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Under NRHM, a number of initiatives to provide medical facilities to rural areas are being undertaken such as, provision of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village/large habitat, in 18 high focus States, strengthening of Sub-centres through provision of united funds, strengthening of Primary Health Centres by up-gradation of PHCs for 24-hours referral service and AYUSH practitioners in PHC, strengthening of Community Health Centres by operationalizing them as 24-hours FRUs and upgradation to Indian Public Health Standards, provision of a Mobile Medical Unit per district to all the States/UTs in the country, provision of assured healthcare at reduced financial risks through pilots of Community Health Insurance under the Mission and Public-Private partnership in health sector, including regulation of private sector.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) provides for cash incentives to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health centre/hospital. Adequate provision for transport assistance has also been made under the scheme.

Levy of user charges by AIIMS

72. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently permitted the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) to levy user charges for tests and medical investigations by the members of the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the important Government Hospitals in Delhi have also decided to follow suit and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The user charges for diagnostic and specialized procedures in Government Hospitals including AIIMS is subject to periodical revision. The recent exercise for rationalization of charges was carried out after a period of more than 10 years to ensure free treatment to more number of poor and needy patients.

In this exercise, a total of 1250 cases of charges for tests, procedures etc. have been rationalized. Charges for over 400 new tests and procedures have been introduced. In respect of another 400 tests, the charges have been increased due to increase in cost of consumables. In the case of over 380 cases, the charges have been left unaltered and in about 40 cases charges have been reduced.

Safe and timely movement of trains

†73. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of performance related to timely movement of trains since February, 2005;

(b) the reasons for late arrivals of trains and the persons held responsible therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to improve the conditions of safe and timely movement of trains specially during foggy weather?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The overall punctuality performance of Mail/ Express trains from February 2005 to January 2006 (month-wise) is as under:

	Broad Gauge(%)	Metre Gauge(%)
February, 05	90.5	96.7
March, 05	91.9	97.2
April, 05	91.1	98.2
May, 05	90.8	97.6
June, 05	92.0	96.2
July, 05	92.9	96.2
August, 05	93.0	96.9
September, 05	91.7	98.1
October, 05	92.5	97.8
November, 05	92.0	97.6
December, 05	88.4	97.7
January, 06	87.7	98.3

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.